

Benton County Dems' World

Eunice Van Tuyl, Editor

AUGUST 27th MEETING

12:00: Speaker and Business Lunch before, during or after Golden Corral in Rogers
2605 W. Pleasant Grove Crossing

Tues., Aug. 21: 7:30 PM 8W Center 801 S Walton	Gayatri Agnew Meet and Greet
Tues., Aug. 21: 5:00 2715 N. Sherwood Fayetteville	Kelly Scott Unger Fundraiser: RSVP
Wed., Aug. 22: 9:30 Rogers Library	BC Dems Board Meeting
Thur., Aug. 23: 6:30 PM Remedy Road Bentonville	Girls with Grit Brie Madden for J. P.
Sat., Aug. 25: 8 - 6 B'ville Square	Democratic Day of Action
Sun., Aug. 26: 2:00 29 Penzance Dr. Bella Vista	Celeste Williams Meet and Greet

Mon., Aug. 27 11:00 – 1:00 Golden Corral	BC Dems Luncheon
Thur., Aug 30: 6:30 PM 911 Chancery Ln. Cave Springs	Gayatri Agnew Fundraiser
Thur., Sept. 6: 6:00 PM River Grille Restaurant	Celeste Williams Fundraiser
Sat., Sept. 8 (Coming near you)	Climate Movement March
Mon., Sept. 10: 6:30 PM Guess Who? - B'ville	Democratic Party of Benton Co.
Tues., Sept. 11: 11:30 Western Sizzlin'	NWA Senior Democrats' Luncheon
Sun., Sept. 16: 4 - 6 207 NW O St. B'ville	Gayatri Agnew Meet Greet – RSVP
Sat., Sept. 22: 4 -7 Little Flock City Park	Little Flock Picnic
Mon., Sept. 24 11:00 – 1:00 Golden Corral	BC Dems' Luncheon

AUGUST SPEAKERS



Kati McFarland is an Ozarks native who moved to Springdale in 2010. Currently taking a break from her studies in violin performance and business management at the University of Arkansas, Kati plans

to work toward a career in clinical genetics or pediatric internal medicine.

Rey Hernandez, a Veteran, is the Democrat running for Benton County Assessor. He is a former member of the governing body of Benton County. His service as a Justice of the Peace on the Quorum Court is what gave him a desire to serve the entire county as the assessor.



A musician who began violin lessons at age four, she has performed in the Midwest and South with various ensembles and enjoys attending concerts and playing violin and piano.

Kati says, **I've never been afraid to speak truth to power over the issues that matter. She demonstrated this in her** extended dialogue about the Affordable Care Act with Senator Cotton at a 2017 town hall that propelled her into national healthcare advocacy, in conversations with Representative Womack and his legislative aides, in meetings with Senator Boozman's legislative aides, and at Senate hearings where lawmakers are confronted with her feeding tube, chemo port, and stories that come with them

She has a deep sense of purpose to work toward a world where everyone, regardless of origin, is afforded health care, honest pay for honest work, freedom from fear in our schools, and our constitutionally-guaranteed freedom of movement. **Kati wants to make sure Arkansans have what they need to succeed.**

Rey resides in Rogers, where he and his wife Roselea have been cattle ranchers since 1989. He is currently employed as the security supervisor for Willow Creek Woman's Hospital through DSI Security.

During the past three decades, Rey has been a restaurant owner, business intermediary, and owned his own marketing company. He also has worked for NWACC, the University of Arkansas, and been the executive director of the Worker's Justice Center.

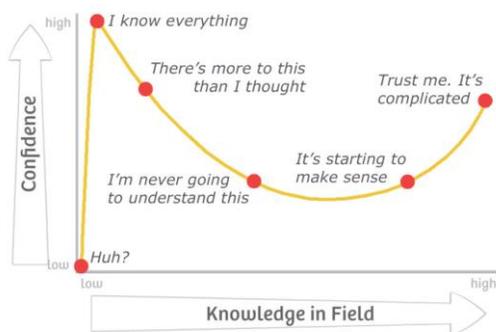
Today, Hernandez serves on the boards of the Washington Regional Medical Foundation, Child Care Aware in Rogers, and Northwest Arkansas LULAC.

Rey holds a Bachelor of Science degree in education from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville and is a veteran with 20 years of service in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Rey Hernandez brings to the office of Benton County Assessor a sense of fairness and his many years of service to the community as a leader and business owner.

A big congratulations to Gayatri Agnew, Democratic candidate for District 93, who spoke to us last month. The Arkansas Demo Gazette had a large article on the front page about the response from the Arkansas Ethics Commission to her request. They had ruled that she could use her campaign funds to pay for childcare (with some exceptions). She was then featured in a national podcast. Listen to it at electionu.com/b/45.

**** Dunning-Kruger Effect:**



Some prominent psychologists have explained President Donald Trump's unwavering support by alluding to a well-established psychological phenomenon known as the "Dunning-Kruger effect." It is a type of cognitive bias, where people with little expertise or ability assume they have superior expertise or ability. This overestimation occurs as a result of the fact that they don't have enough knowledge to know they don't have enough knowledge.

Perhaps this helps explain why Trump supporters seem to be so easily tricked into believing obvious falsehoods when their leader delivers his "alternative facts" sprinkled with language designed to activate partisan identities.

Because they lack knowledge but are confident that they do not, they are less likely than others to actually fact-check the claims that the President makes.

LEADERSHIP NEEDED

Richard A. Bland, President

No, I am not going to talk about national politics! The season has arrived for BC Dems to plan for next year. Our nominating committee has been working hard to recruit a slate of officers. If you are interested in serving in an office beginning in January 2019, please contact Dr. Michael Reese, Bill Beck, or Harrell Simpson. At the moment, the office for which the nominating committee has the fewest prospects is President.

In addition to the four elected officers, President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer, the leadership team consists of four committee chairs with votes on the Executive Committee, or Board. Those four are Publicity, Social Media, Membership, and Immediate Past President. The Board is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the organization. The committee chairs are appointed by the President and approved by the Board.

The committee chairs need committee members to help with their tasks. Some members have expressed an interest in serving on the Programs Committee, chaired by the Vice President. Programs committee members will assist the Vice President in finding and confirming speakers, getting advance information about the speakers and their programs and communicating with the Chairs responsible for getting the information out. In addition to Programs, Membership could use a committee person or two, to help at meetings and help contact members at renewal time. Likewise, Publicity and Social Media could utilize more committee members. David Bernstein joined the Social Media Committee this month and will be administering our Mail Chimp activity. The Newsletter editor probably could use assistance from time to time in her labors; if you have an interest and/or experience that is relevant please contact her.

The Reservations Chair and the Corresponding Secretary are not voting board members, but still play important roles in the organization. Our Corresponding Secretary could use a committee member or two to fill in when she is out of town at meeting time. The Reservations Chair is in charge of the Blue Bowls and has additional duties when we do not meet at our regular meeting place or when we hold a special event. Some additional committee members could lighten her load.

So far I've discussed only the standing committees. From time to time, we have had ad hoc committees. Earlier this year, a small but energetic committee very successfully organized and implemented the Bean Dinner, our major fundraiser of the year. We will need folks to work on that for next year and if you are interested in serving in that capacity, please let a member of the Board know. We've had some inquiries about doing something to register voters and get voters to the polls. If you'd like to work on an ad hoc committee to do that, please identify yourself.

It is still almost three months until the election, and there are things we can still do that might make a difference. As important as this election is, the 2020 election may be as

crucial, and we must begin planning for it soon. BC Dems can accomplish more, but only if its members share their time and talent.

BENTON COUNTY DEMS' July 23, 2018 General Meeting the Golden Corral in Rogers.

President Richard Bland called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and welcomed new members and visitors. Candidates Katie McFarland, House District 90; Celeste Williams, House District 95; Jon Comstock, Senate District 3; and Rey Hernandez, Benton County Assessor introduced themselves. Mary Ann Boyer led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Suzanne Miltich introduced speaker, Gayatri Agnew, candidate for Arkansas House District 93 running against incumbent Jim Dodson. She said her platform focuses on roads, jobs, and schools. She is also focusing on inclusion and tolerance. She described herself as a champion for voter participation and voter registration.

The second speaker was Jené Huffman-Gilreath, candidate for District 94. Jené said her platform is the same as Gayatri's except for different wording—infrastructure, education, and economic development rather than roads jobs, and schools. She is also concerned and focused on the area of mental health. She emphasized that all candidates need widespread support and urged all present to become involved in the mid-term election races.

After questions from the audience, Richard opened the business meeting. The minutes and treasurer's reports for the June meeting were approved as submitted.

- The Nominating Committee, composed of Mike Reese, Harrell Simpson, and Bill Beck, is still seeking people to serve as officers for next year.
- Help is needed for creating and distributing information via Mail Chimp and social media. Anyone who has expertise in this area is urged to contact Richard.
- Thurman Metcalf announced that the Democratic Party of Benton County would hold a grand opening of election headquarters today from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. The headquarters is located at 1019 North 2nd Street in Rogers. The annual Little Flock picnic is scheduled for Sept. 22 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the Little Flock City Park. He is soliciting sponsorships for this event.
- The Democratic Party of Arkansas, Jared Henderson, Susan Inman, and Josh Mahony are sponsoring an event, the Springdale Barnstorm, to take place today after the headquarters opening.
- Celeste Williams' campaign is hosting a Picnic in the Park to be held in Little Flock City Park on July 29 from 1:00-4:00 p.m.
- Chris Birch's campaign is sponsoring an event entitled Give Back (packs). Backpacks filled with school supplies, a haircut, an eye exam, and a meal from Secondhand Smoke BBQ will be given away Aug. 12 from 4:00-6:00 at the Decatur Community Room. Campaign members are soliciting funds to buy items to fill the backpacks.
- The Democratic Party of Arkansas Faith Caucus will host the NWA Regional Chapter meeting Saturday, July 28, at the Bentonville Library.

•Movie Fundraiser: Bill Beck was unable to secure the movie *Leave No Trace*. He is working to secure an upcoming Michael Moore Film, *Fahrenheit 11/9*, in the fall.

The next meeting is August 27, at the Golden Corral in Rogers. Speakers will be Katie McFarland, candidate for House District 90, and Rey Hernandez, candidate for Benton County Assessor.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Diana Kolman, Secretary

Treasurer's Summary July 2018

by David Cauldwell, Treasurer

Beginning Balance:		\$3,432.17			
Income:	Blue Bowls:	\$73.00	Expenses:	Meeting lunches:	<u>\$19.69</u>
	Dues:	\$20.00			
	Misc. (sales):	<u>\$11.00</u>			
Total:		\$104.00			\$19.69
Ending Balance:					\$3,516.48

Gleaned from the *Daily Kos* over the last two months:

** Here is an interview from 1984 given by a recent KGB defector named Yuri Alexandrovich Bezmenov, who defected to Canada in 1970. What stands out is his warning to America that the KGB has been waging a PsyOps warfare campaign against the United States, and he nearly perfectly predicts what is happening today vis-à-vis Putin and Trump.

Much can be learned today from it. His most chilling point was that there's a long-term plan put in play by Russia to defeat America through psychological warfare and "**demoralization**". It's a long game that takes decades to achieve but it may already be bearing fruit.

Bezmenov made the point that the work of the KGB mainly does not involve espionage, despite what our popular culture may tell us. Most of the work, **85%** of it, was "a slow process which we call either **ideological subversion, active measures, or psychological warfare.**" What does that mean? He explained:

*"As I mentioned before, exposure to true information does not matter anymore," said Bezmenov. "A person who was demoralized is unable to assess true information. **The facts tell nothing to him.** Even if I shower him with information, with authentic proof, with documents, with pictures; even if I take him by force to the Soviet Union and show him [a] concentration camp, he will refuse to believe it, until he [receives] a kick in his fan-bottom. When a military boot crashes his balls then he will understand. But not before that. That's the [tragedy] of the situation of demoralization."*

** Donald Trump took a few minutes away from his tweeting on July 27th, to have a meeting with his "most senior national security advisers" on securing this fall's election from Russian interference. It was a very short, considering the gravity of the discussion: less than 30 minutes. He spent four times as long—a full two hours—meeting with Vladimir Putin.

** One day after Facebook disclosed discovering a disinformation campaign on its network targeting the elections, and one week after Democratic Sen. Claire McCaskill of Missouri became the first documented target of Russian hacking, only one GOP senator, Bob Corker, voted for a measure that would have provided an extra \$250 million in election security funding, proposed by Sen. Patrick Leahy, Democrat of Vermont., for the lead up to the 2018 midterms.

** On an MSNBC interview, astronaut Scott Kelly was asked what he thought of Trump's concept of a new military branch he called the "Space Force." Kelly responded that adding a new bureaucracy would be incredibly expensive and many of the things that it would be responsible for are already handled by existing military and service departments, i.e. the Navy and NASA. Also, some of Trump's suggestions are restricted by international treaties that are nearly 50 years old.

He went on to add that he didn't want to speculate as to **why Trump was pushing this idea of fighting futuristic wars in space that have not yet happened, as opposed to the very real cyber warfare going on right now that threatens to undermine our country's democratic institutions.**

** Currently, 28 Republicans occupy Secretary of State offices, while Democrats hold just 17. Voting rights in each of these states has suffered in the hands of GOP election officials. We need to elect Democratic Secretaries of State to erase the effects of the extreme political gerrymandering that lets Republicans win when there are more Democrats voting in a state. They've so successfully gerrymandered districts in states like Wisconsin, Maryland, and Pennsylvania so that they can safely secure seats in Congress and state and local legislatures with fewer votes.

** We must also counteract the widespread voter purges taking place at the hands of the Republicans. Voter caging is the practice of sending mass direct mailings to registered voters by non-forwardable mail, then compiling "caging lists" from the returned mail in order to challenge [the addressees'] right to vote on that basis alone. Armed with no other evidence than returned mail, partisan operatives abuse state laws to file targeted mass challenges [...] to disenfranchise large numbers of minority voters.

** *GoodNews Alert* : On Thursday, Massachusetts' Republican Gov. Charlie Baker signed into law an automatic voter registration that had previously passed the Democratic-run legislature with nearly unanimous bipartisan support, making Massachusetts the 11th state along with D.C. to pass this policy since Oregon became the first to do so in 2015. Any eligible voter who conducts business with the state Registry of Motor Vehicles will be automatically registered unless they opt out, as will those conducting transactions with MassHealth, the state's health insurance program. Critically, that will allow AVR to reach many non-drivers, since Massachusetts has the lowest uninsured rate in the nation.

** *Good News Alert 2*: In a Shelby County election, Tennessee Democrats absolutely trounced their Republican opponents, winning 21 of 26 county offices up for grabs. Republicans held nine of the 10 highest-profile county offices, including mayor and sheriff before the election. Now, they hold zero.

** *Best News Alert:* The Pew Research Center recently released a study comparing Democratic and Republican primary turnout this year with that of 2014. Democratic turnout is way up compared to 2014, and is also outpacing GOP turnout by leaps and bounds. Through June, 13.6 million people had voted in Democratic House primaries in 2018. The number was 7.4 million in 2014, the last midterm election. The 2018 figure represents **an 84 percent increase over 2014.**

The Republican House primary vote has climbed as well in 2018, but not by the same amount. Thus far about 10.7 million votes have been cast in GOP House primaries, compared to 8.6 million in 2014. That's a bump of about 24 percent.

** Former Fox News Channel chief political correspondent Carl Cameron has a warning for America: "The Trump team were colluding with the Russians in 2016 – and they are still colluding." Trump continues to promote Russian President Vladimir Putin's claims that the Kremlin has not been running any such operation—while smearing the intelligence agencies and experts who say otherwise.

"Whenever the President denies the entire idea of Russian interference in U.S. elections — and labels investigations into such interference a *hoax* or *witch hunt*," Cameron told Think-Progress, "he is enabling the biggest cyberattack in U.S. history." (Trump) actively participated in a Russian disinformation campaign that legitimized Russian denial and weakened the credibility of the United States to both our friends and foes abroad.

** *The Wall Street Journal* is reporting that European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker was forced to use flash cards to explain global trade to the actual president of the United States. Juncker "flipped through" more than a dozen cards, which had minimal information on them, and all focused on a single issue. These included the automotive trade, and regulatory standards for medicines, the report added, saying that there were a maximum of three figures per card.

** Dan Rather said, in response to Trump's negative tweet about LeBron James and Don Lemon, " For those following the latest Twitter outrage from the President...I'd much rather live in a world reflecting the values, philanthropy, civic mindedness and yes intelligence of LeBron James and Don Lemon's CNN's intelligent commitment to truth and journalism, than the divisive peevishness, lies and narrow self-interest by the President of the United States. Inclusion, empathy, character, all these must be part of 'WhatUnitesUs.'"

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Wonderful News: In December, Dr. P. Roy Vagelos, the former chair of Merck & Co., and his wife, Diana, are donating \$250 million to Columbia Medical School, in addition to an earlier \$60 million gift. This will fund full-tuition scholarships (\$60,000 tuition a year plus R & B) for those students with the greatest financial need and grants, not loans, to others in need.

Wonderful News, Part 2: The New York University School of Medicine announced on Thursday that it would cover the tuition of all its students, regardless of merit or need.

In the field of medicine, schools have become worried that students saddled with steep debt are increasingly pursuing top-paying specialties rather than careers in family medicine, pediatrics and research. This will offer them opportunities to choose the latter fields.

Out of all the 113 Supreme Court justices in our country's history, all but six have been white men. As wise Latina Justice Sonia Sotomayor has often said, a person's experiences and identity influence how they see and understand the world.

Women in Arkansas earn 78 cents for every dollar that men earn, a difference of roughly \$8,900. The gap is one penny more than last year.



Women Spies of the American Revolution

By Kenna Howat

Throughout the Revolutionary War, there are stories of heroism; those who sacrificed to save others, those who put their lives on the line to warn of impending danger. The vast majority of these stories involve men. But there are countless extraordinary women who risked and sacrificed just as much as men. While women were not allowed to serve in the military, they found other ways to help the war effort. One way they helped was by spying. British soldiers billeted in the homes of colonialists were sometimes too loose with their secrets. Naturally, women took advantage of this. Many times, these women spies were more successful and better at hiding than their male counterparts. Here are just two who accomplished extraordinary things to advance their cause during the revolution.



The Clothesline Code

Anna Smith Strong was a spy who was involved in General Washington's spy ring known as the Culper Spy Ring. Strong and several other residents of Long Island were recruited while others were based in New York. She sneaked information they uncovered to Abraham Woodhull who lived next door. She signaled fellow spy Caleb Brewster that information was ready for pick up, developing an ingenious, almost foolproof signal device to message him: she simply hung her laundry out to dry, in plain sight of British soldiers. Strong hung a black petticoat on her clothesline, along with a number of handkerchiefs. The black petticoat signaled that a message was ready to be picked up and the handkerchiefs would relay where the message was hidden. Six coves along the shore were designated as dead drop locations. The number of handkerchiefs hung corresponded to one of the six coves. This messaging system was never broken throughout the entire Revolution and no one in the Culper Ring was ever caught. As a woman, she was severely underestimated, and by doing her laundry, a normal womanly thing to do, no one suspected that she was doing anything out of the ordinary.



The Button Code

Lydia Barrington Darragh: The Darraghs were Quaker and did not believe in violence, but they sided with the Patriots during the American Revolution. During the occupation of Philadelphia by the British, several high-ranking soldiers were quartered in the Darragh's home. A British general stayed across the street and would regularly hold meetings with officers in the Darragh's house. She spied on the soldier's meetings, under the guise of bringing them refreshments or wood for the fire. Darragh's husband wrote the information she

uncovered in a special shorthand known to most members of the family. She then hid the message under cloth-covered buttons on her son's coat. He then took the message to his older brother, who was serving under General Washington.

On December 2, 1777, the British ordered them to stay in their bedroom during a meeting. Darragh hid in a closet to spy on the officers and overheard them planning a surprise attack on Washington's army. That night, Darragh left the city with the excuse of getting flour from a mill outside of town. There, she met up with Patriot soldiers and handed over a message about the impending attack. This gave Washington's men time to prepare for it, which ended in a standoff. Darragh's bravery and cunning were crucial in ensuring that this attack did not end in a massacre.

These women are just two of the many who participated in the American Revolution. Women were largely misjudged and thought to be incapable of strenuous, dangerous work like spying. Many of these women took advantage of this stereotype in order to obtain information that no man would have been able to procure. While many of these women's names are unknown, it is clear that they helped, and may even have influenced the outcome of the war. Even though women were not allowed to serve in the military, they found other ways to further their cause, often at great personal risk and often for no recognition.

2018 Benton County Democrats' Officers & Committee Chairs

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Home #</u>
President	Richard Bland	rabland@cox.net	631-9818
Vice-President	Suzanne Miltich	suzanne@dhsc.com	925-6275
Treasurer	David Cauldwell	dcauldwl@gmail.com	721-2747
Recording Secretary	Diana Kolman	dkolman@cox.net	903-3532
Past President	Eunice Van Tuyl	etyl@sbcglobal.net	855-7771
Membership Chair	Gaye Bland	GKBland@cox.net	631-9818
Social Media Chair	Joel Ewing	icewing.bcdems@cox.net	268-4231
Social Media	David Bernstein	davidabernstein@gmail.com	214-724-2376
Newsletter Chair	Eunice Van Tuyl	etyl@sbcglobal.net	855-7771
Publicity Chair	Jerri Cooper	jerricooper@aol.com	640-1343
Corresponding Secretary	JoAnn Skillett	jskillett@sbcglobal.net	876-6841
Reservations Chair	Betty Cauldwell	bcauldwl@gmail.com	721-2747

